

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GOJ S&T BUDGET REQUEST FOR JFY 1976

1. GOVERNMENT FUNDS REQUESTED BY VARIOUS GOJ AGENCIES IN FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR JAPAN FISCAL YEAR 1976 TOTAL ABOUT \$1,340 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 23.3 PER CENT OVER CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, ACCORDING TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (STA). NEARLY HALF OF REQUESTED FUNDS IS FOR SPACE AND ATOMIC ENERGY R&D ACTIVITIES, OR \$296 MILLION AND \$361 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

2. OF \$1,340 MILLION TOTAL, \$346 MILLION (UP 16.9 PERCENT) IS FOR R&D ACTIVITIES AT NATIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES OTHER THAN SPACE AND NUCLEAR ENERGY (INCLUDING SALARIES), \$311 MILLION (UP 25.4 PERCENT) FOR GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES, \$25 MILLION (JP 21.7 PER CENT) FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES. REQUEST FOR \$361 MILLION FOR ATOMIC ENERGY R&D REPRESENTS INCREASE OF 25.7 PERCENT AND THAT FOR \$286 MILLION FOR SPACE ACTIVITIES INCREASE OF 26.4 PERCENT OVER FISCAL 1975 WHICH ENDS OF MARCH 31, 1976.

3. INCLUDED IN THIS FUNDING REQUEST IS "NATIONAL R&D PROGRAM" AND "SUNSHINE PROJECT" OF MITI/AIST TOTALING \$77 MILLION (\$60 MILLION FOR NATIONAL R&D AND \$17 MILLION FOR SUNSHINE). PROJECTS NEWLY IDENTIFIED FOR NATIONAL R&D PROGRAM ARE RESOURCES RECOVERY AND UTILIZATION TECHNOOGY AND SUPERCONDUCTIVR POWER TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGY. MITI/AIST PLANS TO INVEST \$17 MILLIN FOR LATTER PROJECT ALONE IN NEXT FIVE YEARS. DEEP-SEA REMOTE CONTROL DRILLING EQUIPMENT PROJECT, ONE OF NATIONAL R&D PROJECTS INITIATED IN JFY UNCLASSIFIED

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1970, WILL BE DISCONTINUED. OTHER NEW PROJECTS TOBE TREATED AS

QUASI-NATIONAL R&D PROJECTS ARE DISASTER PREVENTION FOR INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES AND WASTE ENERGY UTILIZATION. MITI/AIST WILL ALSO RENEW ATTEMPT TO SET UP NEW ENERGY R&D INSTITUTE FOR JFY 1976 WITH \$5.3 MILLION. FINANCE MINISTRY IS EXPECTED TO GRANT THIS REQUEST IN EXCHANGE FOR MITI'S TAKING STEPS TO REORGANIZE ITS ENERGY-RELATED STRUCTURE.

4. MAJOR GRANT AND SUBSIDIES PROGRAMS INCLUDE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH GRANTS FOR UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS (\$67 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF \$11 MILLION OVER JFY 1975), SUBSIDIES TO JAPAN SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF SCIENCE (\$6.8 MILLION, UP \$1.7 MILLION), SUPPORT OF PRIVATE RESEARCH INSTITUTES (\$1.5 MILLION, UP \$0.2 MILLION), AND MEDICAL RESEARCH SUBSIDIES FROM MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (\$20 MILLION, UP \$9 MILLION).

5. NUMBER OF SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS TO BE NEWLY RECRUITED IN JFY 1976 WILL TOTAL 542, OF WHICH 403 ARE QUALIFIED RESEARCH PERSONNEL FOR GOIPJKYFGX# RESEARCH LABORATORIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES APPEAR MODEST IN THEIR REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR. A 23 PERCENT INCREASE IN FUNDS MAY WELL BE OFFSET BY PRICE INCREASES AND RISING SALARIES AND WAGES. AS A RESULT, AGENCIES MAY HAVE TO CHANGE ORDER OF PRIORITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THEIR R&D PROGRAMS. THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN REFLECTED IN MITI'S FUNDING REQUEST FOR MAJOR NATIONAL R&D PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY

AS IT RELATES TO ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. IN ANY CASE, IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THERE WILL BE NO DRAMATIC CHANGES IN JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.
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